REMARKS

Applicants representatives thank the Examiner for the courtesies he and his supervisor extended during the interview held on April 24, 2007. During the interview applicants representatives discussed the response filed on April 23, 2007, and further possible claim amendments for overcoming the pending rejections. The Examiner agreed that amending claims 7 and 9 to include a testable functional language (i.e. stimulates weight gain) would help overcome the pending rejections under 35 USC 112. Accordingly, applicants have amended claims 7 and 9 to specify that the claimed proteins "stimulate weight gain," which is a testable function.

In addition, in the amendment filed on April 23, 2007, claim 7 was amended to specify that the claimed protein includes "an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:14 or an amino acid sequence encoded by a nucleotide sequence that is capable of hybridizing to a nucleotide sequence encoding SEQ ID NO:14 under high stringency conditions of at least 31% v/v to at least about 50% v/v formamide, from at least 0.01M to at least about 0.15M salt for hybridization, and at least about 0.01M to at least about 0.15M salt for washing conditions at 42°C."

Similarly, claim 9 was amended to specify that the protein is "encoded by a nucleotide sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:13 or a nucleotide sequence that is capable of hybridizing to SEQ ID NO:13 under high stringency conditions of at least 31% v/v to at least about 50% v/v formamide, from at least 0.01M to at least about 0.15M salt for hybridization, and at least about 0.01M to at least about 0.15M salt for washing conditions at 42°C."

Hybridization and washing under the claimed high stringency conditions means that only molecules with relatively high sequence similarity will interact. For two molecules to interact under high stringency conditions such as 31-50% formamide and 0.01-0.15M salt, the two molecules would need to have sequence similarity of 95% or greater for the interaction to occur. Consequently, hybridization

under the claimed high stringency conditions represents a very specific description of the claimed proteins.

Accordingly, the testable function of stimulates weight gain, along with the other claimed characteristics described in the amendment filed on April 23, 2007, constitutes an adequate written description of the claimed invention, and would allow one of skill in the art to identify the isolated proteins.

In view of the above, and the amendments and comments presented in the amendment filed on April 23, 2007, each of the presently pending claims in this application is in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejections of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time and authorize the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing docket no. **229752000701**.

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Respectfully submitted,

By

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